

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method for foaming a foamable material, comprising ~~the steps of:~~  
  
providing a mold having a cavity, the cavity having a cavity volume;  
  
pressurizing ~~placing the cavity of the mold under a pressurized condition; to a~~  
pressurization;  
  
foaming the foamable material in the cavity of the mold under the pressurization  
~~pressurized condition, to thereby appropriately control foaming of the foamable material; and~~  
  
wherein the pressurization is maintained until an injected volume of the foamable  
material equaling approximately the cavity volume multiplied by  $1/n$  is injected into the mold to  
obtain a shaped foam having an expansion ratio of about  $n:1$ ; and  
  
releasing the pressurization ~~pressurized condition~~ of the cavity of the mold.
2. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 1, wherein said pressurizing includes ~~placing step includes a step of~~ hermetically closing the cavity of the mold.
3. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 2, wherein said pressurizing includes ~~placing step includes a step of~~ injecting the foamable material after or simultaneously with said hermetically closing ~~step~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 2, wherein said pressurizing includes placing ~~step includes a step of~~ supplying a predetermined gas to the ~~hermetically closed~~ cavity after or simultaneously with said hermetically closing ~~step~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 2, wherein said pressurizing includes placing ~~step includes said step of~~ supplying a predetermined gas to the ~~hermetically closed~~ cavity after or simultaneously with said hermetically closing ~~step~~, and ~~a step of~~ injecting the foamable material.

6. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a step of controlling said pressurizing such that the pressurization~~ the pressurized condition of the cavity ~~to~~ is a predetermined level.

7. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 6, wherein said ~~controlling step~~ is commenced when the pressurization ~~pressurized condition~~ of the cavity reaches ~~a~~ the predetermined level.

8. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 6, wherein said ~~controlling step~~ is commenced when the foamable material is first injected into ~~started to be supplied to~~ the cavity.

9. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 6, wherein said controlling-step includes ~~a step of~~ discharging a gas ~~in~~ from inside the cavity of the mold to ~~the~~ outside the cavity of the mold.

10. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 6, wherein ~~in~~ during said controlling-step, a pressure in the cavity of the mold is controlled to 0.1 Kg/cm<sup>2</sup> or more.

11. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method according to claim 2, wherein said releasing-step includes ~~a step of~~ opening the hermetically closed cavity of the mold.

12.- 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A foam molding method for foaming a foamable material, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a mold having a cavity, the cavity having a cavity volume;

providing a core member in the cavity of the mold, the core member having a periphery;

pressurizing ~~placing~~ the cavity of the mold ~~under a pressurized condition; to a~~ pressurization;

foaming the foamable material in the cavity of the mold under the ~~pressurized condition~~ so that pressurization to control foaming of the foamable material, wherein the foamable material adheres to the core member ~~partway or all the way around a~~ and at least partially circumscribes the periphery of the core member, thus appropriately controlling foaming of the foamable

material; and

wherein the pressurization is maintained until an injected volume of the foamable material equaling approximately the cavity volume multiplied by  $1/n$  is injected into the mold to obtain a shaped foam having an expansion ratio of about  $n:1$ ; and  
releasing the ~~pressurization~~ ~~pressurized condition~~ of the cavity of the mold.

25. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A foam molding method for foaming a foamable material, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a mold having a cavity, the cavity having a cavity volume;

providing a casing in the cavity of the mold, said casing having a hollow structure with opposing open ends;

~~pressurizing placing the cavity of the mold under a pressurized condition; to a~~  
pressurization;

foaming the foamable material so as to fill a hollow portion of the casing, to ~~thereby~~  
~~appropriately~~ control foaming of the foamable material; and

wherein the pressurization is maintained until an injected volume of the foamable material equaling approximately the cavity volume multiplied by  $1/n$  is injected into the mold to obtain a shaped foam having an expansion ratio of about  $n:1$ ; and

releasing the pressurized condition of the cavity of the mold.

26. - 35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A foam molding method according to claim 1, wherein after the injected volume of the foamable material is injected into the mold, said foaming includes maintaining a pressure in the cavity of the mold or further pressurizing the cavity of the mold to a higher pressurization.

37. (New) A foam molding method according to claim 36, wherein after the injected volume of the foamable material is injected into the mold, said foaming includes maintaining a pressure in the cavity of the mold by depressurizing the cavity of the mold.

38. (New) A foam molding method according to claim 36, wherein after the injected volume of the foamable material is injected into the mold, said foaming includes releasing a gas from the mold based on an injected amount of the foamable material such that a pressure inside the cavity is maintained.